Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

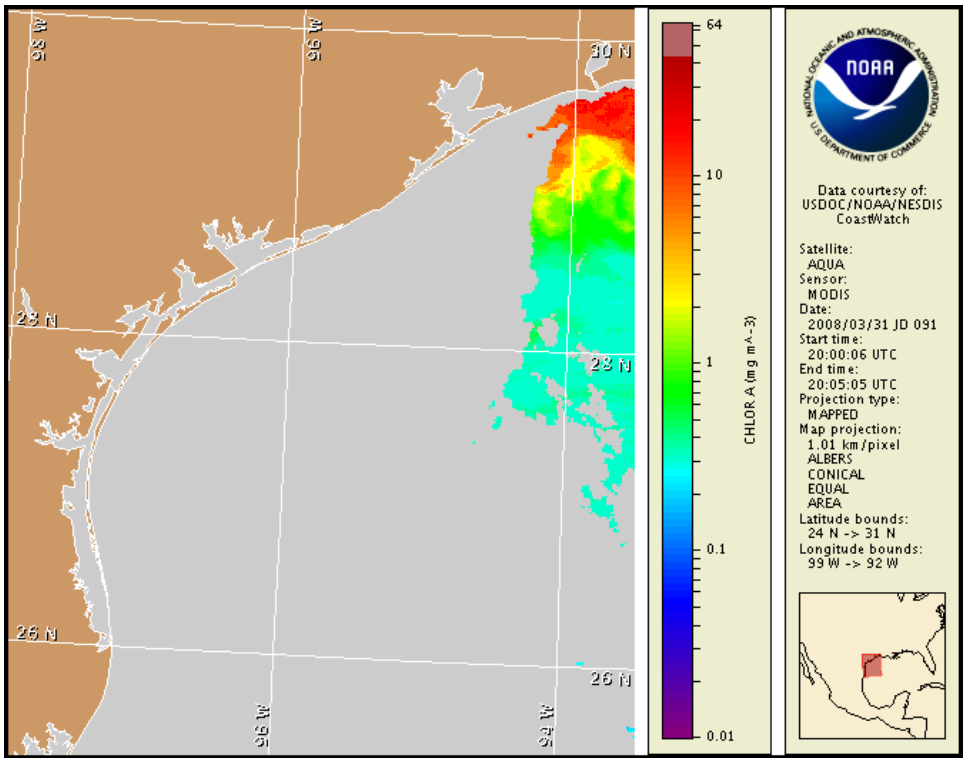
Region: Texas

1 April 2008

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: March 25, 2008



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from March 24 to 28 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide:

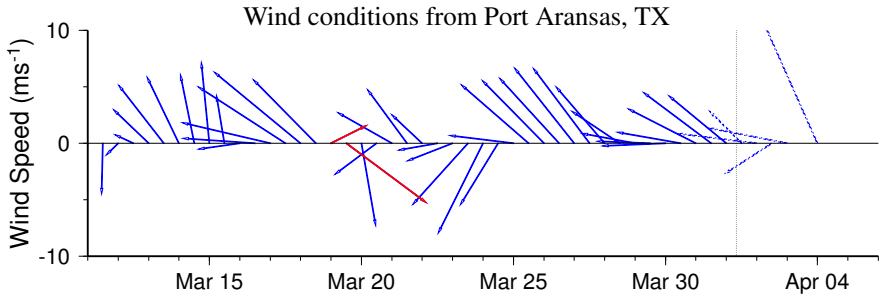
http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Conditions Report

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has re-opened the approved portion of Lavaca Bay, Caracahua Bay and the approved portion of Tres Palacios Bay. Due to elevated toxin levels in oyster tisuues the following bays remain closed to shellfish harvesting: Corpus Christi, Aransas (including St. Charles Bay and Carlos Bay), Copano, Mesquite, San Antonio, Espiritu Santo, and Matagorda Bays. East Matagorda Bay remains open. This is not the usual Texas "red tide" organism, (*Karenia brevis*) and it does not cause respiratory irritation.

Analysis

Blooms of *Dinophysis* are rare in the US and we do not have a standard for monitoring with remote sensing. Imagery does not provide a useful reference for the blooms, but may aid in circulation patterns. Unfortunately, cloudy imagery over the Texas coast over the last week prevents an analysis at this time. However, the state reports that shellfish closures continue in the following areas and bays: Corpus Christi, Aransas (including St. Charles Bay and Carlos Bay), Copano, Mesquite, San Antonio, Espiritu Santo, and Matagorda Bays. In addition, several species of *Prorocentrum*, also a producer of okadaic acid, have begun to show up in the water samples. In some areas levels of *Dinophysis* have dropped while *Prorocentrum sp.* numbers have increased. TAMU-Galveston sampled the surf from San Luis Pass to Bolivar Roads and found no *Dinophysis*.

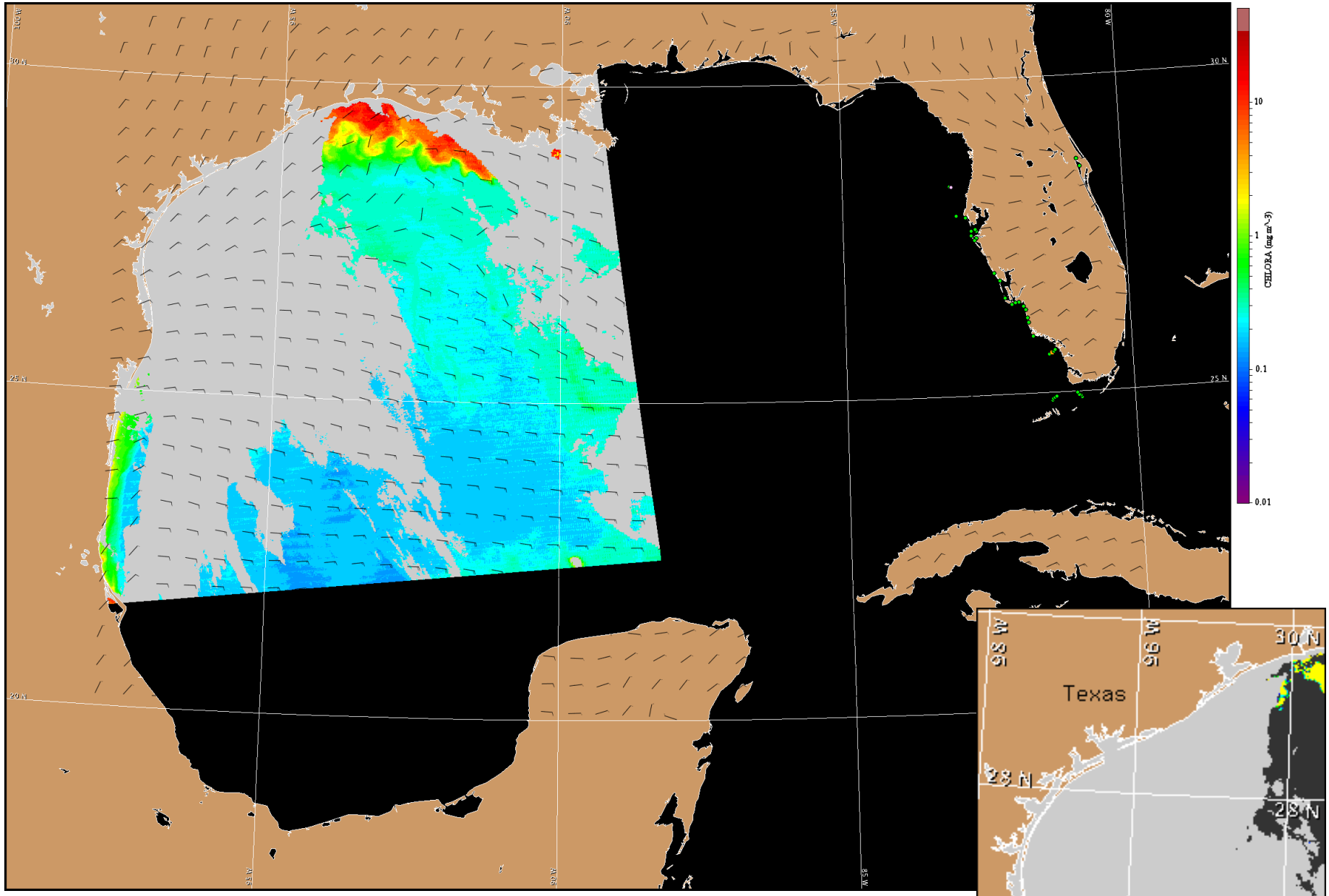


Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

Wind Analysis

Southeast to Easterly winds are expected through Friday, increasing from 10-15 knots to 20-25 Wednesday night and Thursday.

To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA CoastWatch bulletin archive: http://coastwatch.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins_ns.htm



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for April 2, 2008 12Z with Cell concentration sampling data from March 24 to 28 shown as red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue(very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa.gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Verifi ed and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).